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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6789

BILL NUMBER: SB 172

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 1, 2006

BILL AMENDED: Mar 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Teacher Shortages.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lubbers

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Behning

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows the governing body of a school corporation or an accredited nonpublic school to hire an individual who is in the process of obtaining a teacher's license under the Transition to Teaching Program, if the individual: (1) is obtaining a license in a subject area; or (2) will be teaching in a school that is located in a school corporation; in which there is an insufficient supply of licensed teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education.

It requires the superintendent of a school corporation to make a determination that either no fully licensed and highly qualified teacher is available or that the Transition to Teaching Program participant is the best qualified for the position before hiring the program participant. The bill provides that a program participant who is hired to teach receives a Transition to Teaching Permit, and enters into a regular or temporary teacher's contract. It requires the State Board to review the designation of a subject area or school corporation as having an insufficient supply of licensed teachers every two years.

The bill allows the Division of Professional Standards of the Department of Education to use part of the appropriations made to the Division for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 fiscal years for stipends for mentor teachers.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon Passage; July 1, 2006.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Teacher Shortage:* The designation and review every two years of shortage areas and schools with an insufficient supply of licensed teachers by the State Board of Education should not increase expenditures by the Board or the Department of Education.

(Revised) *Mentor Stipends*: The total appropriation for the Division of Professional Standards of the Department of Education is \$3,716,502 per year for FY 2006 and FY 2007. P. L. 246- 2005 (the Budget Bill) included language that the appropriations to the Division of Professional Standards did not include funds to pay stipends for mentor teachers. The bill could reduce General Fund reversions for FY 2006 and FY 2007. For FY 2006, the Professional Standards Board was changed to the Division of Professional Standards of the Department of Education. The Professional Standards Board on June 30, 2005, reverted about \$2.36 M.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill might make it easier for schools to hire teachers in shortage areas and for schools designated as having insufficient supply of licensed teachers. The teacher has to be enrolled in the Transition to Teaching program and must complete the program within 3 years after beginning to teach.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Board of Education; Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Local schools; Accredited nonpublic schools.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.